Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission was also set up to consider all relevant studies and recommendations including the report submitted by the Task Force and suggest strategies and programmes in the 10th Plan for creating ten million gainful employment opportunities in a year. The Special Group has also submitted its report. The Special Group has observed that creation of 10 million gainful employment opportunities in a year is feasible and suggested employment generation through growth based and programme based approaches for creation of around 50 million job opportunities during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Problems of migrant workers

266. SHRI GAYA SINGH :

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems of the Inter-State migrant workers who are normally paid lesser than minimum wages and made to work under hazardous conditions for longer hours;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the existing law the Inter-State Migrant Workers Act, 1979 is not being enforced in any State due to the inherent lacunae in the Act; and

(c) if so, whether Government would take urgent steps for enumeration of inter-state migrant workers and also to make appropriate amendments to the existing law to make it more effective and enforceable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) The Government is aware of the problems of the inter-state migrants workers. In order to safeguard the interest of Inter-State Migrant Workers, the Government has enacted the Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979.

The Act envisages payment of equal wages to migrant and local workers for the same or similar kind of work.

(b) and (c) The responsibility for enforcement of the provisions of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979 lies both with the Central and State Governments in their respective spheres. As most of the workers move on their own, there is difficulty in effective enforcement of the Act. Data of inter-state migrant workers in the country is collected through the Census of India. To enforce the provisions of the Act, the recipient States of the migrant workmen have been advised to co-operate with the officers of the States who send the migrant workmen whenever any enquiry is conducted for effective enforcement of the provisions of the Act. Amendments to the Act would be considered as and when needed.

Unorganised workers

267. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) what is the percentage of workers in unorganized sector in the country, State-wise details for the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that 12 per cent of the wages of the casual labourers, contract labourers and daily wages workers are deducted as EPF; and

(c) if so, whether there is any provision to disburse the EPF contribution of the poor workers in time to stop their harassment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) As per the survey carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation in the year 1999-2000, the total employment in both organized and unorganized sector in the country was of the order of 397 million. Out of this 369 million were engaged in the unorganized sector.

(b) The casual, contract and daily wages workers engaged in the establishments/factory covered under the Employees' Provident Funds &